

God is. The evidence is simply to witness to the evidence upon the basis of which the belief in God rests. It is not only that these are sufficient, but they deal w. the self-manifestation wh. God displays, wh. is inevitable. inevitable.

It is not the argument that is the proof, because the argument is the reasoned presentation of the testimony. We must not base our convictions on the argument, but upon the evidence. The argument is simply the way of bringing the evidence to our attention. The argument simply shows that the evidence is sufficient & hence is proof in this sense. However we must emphasize that the evidence does demonstrate what is argued & it is only to the extent that it does demonstrate this that the argument is valid. If the argument does demonstrate, the conviction is not only proper but is demanded. To refuse to yield is to resist the self-manifestation of God.

It is often said that this argumentation will never elicit belief. The mind of man is depraved & he will not grant the force of the evidence. This is granted & only the redemptive word of God can correct the blindness & distortions wh. arise from depravity. Consequently a man still in his depraved state will never yield the proper response to the argument or to the evidence which provides the material of the argument. All this is true. He can yield a highly significant response, but not the proper one. All of this does not invalidate the basic contention that these arguments offer proof of the reality & character of God. The ques. is not who are to be persuaded, but whether the argument is true. Whether it ought (cf. Calvin) to elicit the belief of which we speak. This whole issue is prejudiced by begging in that consideration that men will not be persuaded. The ques. is what is true? If the evidence displays the glory of God then the argument is true, for this is what the argument says. The fact that man's mind is distorted does not make untrue the fact that God's goodness is reflected in glory resplendent. The ques. is not what is empirically true, but what ought to be